

BOOK REVIEWS

Introducing the Insect. F. A. Urquhart. Revised edition, 1966. Frederick Warne and Co., Ltd., London. 258 pp., numerous line drawings by E. B. S. Logier. \$7.95.

This is a British edition of a book originally published in Canada in 1949. It has been revised only slightly, with some minor changes in the text to minimize confusion for users in the British Isles. However, as the publisher states, ". . . its appeal is worldwide. The author's intention was to provide a simple introduction to the study of insects generally. . . ." The book is a non-technical guide to the common orders and families of insects, with common group names emphasized; technical names are given parenthetically after the common names in text, but are omitted altogether in the keys. An especially useful feature of the keys to orders and families is the inclusion of a small line drawing immediately opposite each group name; this should appeal strongly to the beginner or layman who may be bewildered by the seeming intricacies of keys. The latter are, however, kept as simple and practical as possible. Following the family keys for each order is a brief but informative discussion of each family, accompanied by a more detailed figure. A chapter on making an insect collection and one on anatomy and life history are included. Only insects are treated; other arthropod groups sure to be encountered by the beginner are barely mentioned and quickly dismissed. The beginner may wonder at the arbitrary omission of anything "with more than three pairs of legs." The inclusion of a brief section on miscellaneous arthropods might have enhanced its appeal. Notwithstanding, its lack of pretension and of technical detail will appeal to many who seek an "introduction to the insect."

RICHARD W. FREDRICKSON
Saint Joseph's College,
Philadelphia

Bees: Their Vision, Chemical Senses, and Language. Karl von Frisch. Rev. edition 1971. Cornell University Press, Ithaca and London. xviii + 157 pp., 76 figs., photographs. \$7.50.

More than twenty years ago, in his preface to the first edition of this volume, Karl von Frisch expressed his pleasure at being able to present to a wide audience through the medium of this little book, what had been given in three lectures to universities and scientific institutions during his lecture tour through the United States in 1949. It became an instant classic in the logical and clear reporting of his biological experimentation on bees.

Now, in this revised edition, von Frisch has updated his work by modifying the literal reproduction of the original lectures, by incorporating the additional research done by himself and other scientists in these intervening years, and by increasing the bibliography. Yet in so doing, he did not succumb to the temptation to expand his succinct book into an expensive reference tome. As a result, *Bees* remains in the author's words: "what it has been hitherto: an easily read introduction to one of the most fascinating areas of biology. It is designed to show the layman what sorts of problems are at issue here, and how they may be solved."

It is intended, therefore, as a semi-popular presentation to a mixed audience—an introduction for the untrained amateur, and a basic "must" reading for the professional entomologist. For both groups it should be a springboard for future in-depth studying of more detailed articles and books on the subject.

The same sequence of presentation has been retained in this revised edition, viz.— three chapters covering: the "color sense" (feeding card experiments, floral colors, beehive colors,